[FRIDAY] *May* 16, 1766. RIND's NUMB. I.

# VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

Open to ALL PARTIES, but Influenced by NONE.

*TO enter into a minute Detail of the Advantages of a well conducted* NEWS-PAPER, *would, at any Time, be impertinent, but more especially at a Criſis, which makes a quick Circulation of Intelligence peculiarly intereſting to all the* AMERICAN COLONIES. *It will be more to the Purpoſe therefore to communicate to the Public a brief Account of the Nature of our Plan, than to enter into a formal Proof of it's Utility, which we eſteem little leſs than ſelf-evident.*

*We propoſe to print this* GAZETTE *on every Friday, to contain a faithful Account of remarkable foreign Occurrences; Materials for which we ſhall be amply furniſhed with, in Conſequence of a general Correſpondence we have eſtabliſhed for that Purpoſe. Remarkable domeſtic Occurrences, with exact Liſts of all Entries and Clearances, Accounts of Exports and Imports, and ſuch Proceedings of the Legiſlature, and Courts of Juſtice, as may conduce to the Benefit or Entertainment of our Readers, ſhall find a Place in our Publication. Any uſeful or entertaining, Schemes for the Advancement of* TRADE, ARTS *and* MANUFACTURES, *Propoſals for Improvements in* AGRICULTURE, *and particularly in the Culture of* HEMP *and* FLAX, *will be received with a high Senſe of the Obligation, and inſerted with Pleaſure and Alacrity.*

*As the Intereſts of* RELIGION *and* LIBERTY, *we ſhall ever think our peculiar Duty to ſupport; and, at the ſame Time, to treat with Contempt the intemperate Effuſions of factious Zeal, whether religious or political, as Enemies to Virtue, and the Peſts of Civil Order. With the ſame Reaſon ſhall we reject every Propoſition to make our Paper a Vehicle for the dark Purpoſes of private Malice, by propagating Calumnies againſt Individuals, wounding the Peace of Families, and inflaming the Minds of Men with Bitterneſs and Rancour againſt one another.*

*In a Word, we will ſpare neither Coſt nor Pains to render our Paper as uſeful and entertaining as poſſible; and, while theſe Objects are ſteadily purſued, the Publiſher will confidently rely upon the known Generoſity and Public Spirit of the Gentlemen of this Colony, for their Countenance and Support of ſuch a uſeful Undertaking.*

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*To Mr.* WILLIAM RIND.

*Leed's-Town, March* 1, 1766.

SIR,

*OUR publiſhing an Account of the following Proceedings of the Sons of Liberty, in this Colony, will afford many, and the early Inſtance of your Determination to* [illegible] *your* PRESS.

CAPTAIN *Archibald Ritchie*, of *Hobb's-Hole*, Merchant, having declared publicly at RICHMOND Court, That he was determined to clear out his Veſſels on Stamp'd Paper; at the ſame Time ſaying, that he knew where to get ſuch Paper: Enraged at the ſaid *Ritchie*'s matchleſs Impudence, in making ſuch a Declaration, and alarmed at the dangerous Conſequences, that ſuch an iniquitous Practice might be productive of to the Liberty of our Country, if other Merchants ſhould purſue ſo pernicious an Example; a Number of Gentlemen met at *Leed's-Town* on the Twenty-ſeventh of laſt Month, in the Evening, to conſider of what Meaſures it would be neceſſary to take, againſt a Man who was thus attempting to introduce a Law ſo deſtructive to the Community. At this Place they choſe a Committee to regulate their Plan of Operations, who drew up the following Scheme of an Aſſociation, *viz.*

*WE who ſubſcribe this Paper, have aſſociated, and do bind ourſelves to each other, to* GOD *and to our* COUNTRY, *by the firmeſt Ties that Religion and Virtue can frame, moſt ſacredly and punctually to ſtand by, and with our Lives and Fortunes to ſupport, maintain, and defend, each other, in the Obſervation and Execution of theſe following Articles:*

I. *WE declare all due Allegiance and Obedience to our lawful Sovereign* GEORGE *the Third, King of* Great-Britain, *and we determine, to the utmoſt of our Power, to preſerve the Laws, Peace and good Order of this Colony, as far as is conſiſtent with the Preſervation of our conſtitutional Rights and Liberties.*

II. *AS we know it to be the Birthright Privilege of every* Britiſh *Subject (and of the People of* Virginia *as being ſuch) founded on Reaſon, Law and Compact, that he cannot be legally tried but by his Peers, and that he cannot be taxed, but by Conſent of a Parliament, in which he is repreſented by Perſons of his own chooſing, who themſelves pay a Part of the Tax they impoſe on others: If therefore, any Perſon ſhall attempt, by any Action or Proceeding, to deprive this Colony of thoſe fundamental Rights, we will immediately regard him as the moſt dangerous Enemy of this Community, and we will go to any Extremity, not only to prevent the Succeſs of ſuch Attempts, but to ſtigmatize and puniſh the Offender.*

III. *AS the* Stamp-Act *does abſolutely diveſt the Property of the People to be taken from them without their Conſent, expreſſed by their Repreſentatives, and as in many Caſes it deprives the* Britiſh American *Subject of his Right to Trial by Juries, we do determine, at every Hazard, paying no regard to Danger, or to Death, that we will exert every Faculty, to prevent the Execution of the ſaid* Stamp-Act, *in any Inſtance whatever within this Colony; and that if any abandoned Wretch, ſhall be ſo loſt to Virtue, and public Good, as wickedly to contribute to the Introduction or Fixure of the* Stamp-Act *in this Colony, by uſing Stamp'd Paper, or by any other Means, we will, with the utmoſt Expedition, convince every ſuch Profligate, that immediate Danger and Diſgrace ſhall attend their proſtitute Purpoſe.*

IV. *THAT the laſt Article may be moſt ſurely and effectually executed, we engage each to the other, that whenever it ſhall be known to any of this Aſſociation, that any Perſon is ſo conducting himſelf, as to favour the Introduction of the* Stamp-Act, *that immediate Notice ſhall be given to as many of the Aſſociation as poſſible, and that every Individual ſo informed, ſhall with Expedition repair to a Place of Meeting, to be appointed as near the Scene of Action as may be.*

V. *EACH Aſſociator ſhall do his true Endeavour, to obtain as many Signers to this Aſſociation as he poſſibly can.*

VI. *IF any Attempt ſhall be made upon the Liberty, or Property of any Aſſociator for any Action or Thing to be done in Conſequence of this Agreement; we do moſt ſolemnly bind ourſelves, by the ſacred Engagements above entered into, at the utmoſt Riſque of our Lives and Fortunes, to reſtore ſuch Aſſociate to his Liberty, and to protect him in the Enjoyment of his Property.*

IN Teſtimony of the good Faith with which we reſolve to execute this [illegible] we have hereunto put our Hands and Seals, *Virginia*, 27th *February*, 1766.

THIS Aſſociation was immediately ſigned by the whole Company, and by great Numbers ſince. The Committee alſo prepared a Declaration, to be made, ſigned, and ſworn to, by the ſaid *Ritchie*, and came to a Reſolution, that if he ſhould refuſe to ſign and make Oath to the ſame, his Perſon ſhould be taken and ſtripped naked to his Waiſt, tied to the Tail of a Cart, and drawn to the public Pillory, where he ſhould be fixed for one Hour, and if in that Time he did not comply, that he ſhould be brought up by the whole Company to *Leed's-Town*, there to be farther determined on, as ſhould ſeem expedient to the Friends of Liberty.

THE next Day the whole Company proceeded to *Hobb's-Hole*, where they were joined by a large Number, who had aſſembled from the adjacent Counties on the South Side of *Rappahannock*, in order to call the ſaid *Ritchie* to Account for having preſumed to throw out the Threat aforeſaid.

THE Sons of Liberty, to the Amount of Four Hundred, drew up in Two Lines, in the main Street of the Town, whilſt the Gentlemen appointed by the Committee for that Purpoſe, went to the Houſe of the ſaid *Ritchie*, and agreeable to their Inſtructions, read to him the Declaration prepared for him, and required him to go with them to the main Body, in order to read, ſign and ſwear, to the ſame. He at firſt deſired that a Committee might be appointed to reaſon with him upon the Subject, but the Deputies informed him, that the Expiation required of him, was already determined on; and demanded an immediate Anſwer, Whether he would willingly attend them to the main Body, or not? He anſwering that he would, they immediately conducted him thither; where being arrived, he at firſt complained that the Terms propoſed were too ſevere; but the Sons of Liberty calling out that they were

were juſt, after ſome little Heſitation, he, in the Preſence of the whole Company, with his Hat off, and with an audible Voice, firſt read, and then ſwore to the following Declaration, viz.

*SENSIBLE now of the high Inſult I offered this Country, by declaring at* Richmond-*Court lately, my Determination to make uſe of* Stamp'd Papers, *for clearing out my Veſſels; and being convinced, ſuch Proceeding would eſtabliſh a Precedent, by which the baleful* Stamp-Act *might be introduced into this Colony, to the utter Deſtruction of public Liberty; I do moſt ſubmiſſively, in Preſence of the Public, ſign this Paper, meaning to ſhew my deep Remorſe for having formed ſo execrable a Deſign; and I do hereby ſolemnly promiſe, and ſwear on the Holy Evangeliſts, that no Veſſels ſo mine ſhall ſail, cleared on* Stamp'd Paper, *and that I never will, on any Pretence, make uſe of, or cauſe to be made uſe of,* Stamp'd Paper, *unleſs the Uſe of ſuch Paper ſhall be authorized by the General Aſſembly of this Colony.* ARCHIBALD RITCHIE.

The Company then ſeparated, thoſe in the Neighbourhood returned to their reſpective Habitations, whilſt thoſe who reſided at a Diſtance, retired to the Taverns, where they ſpent the Evening with great Sobriety; indeed the Whole was conducted with ſo much Decency and Diſcretion, that not a ſingle Man even attempted to introduce Drunkenneſs, Noiſe or Licentiouſneſs, amongſt them.

## The NORTH-BRITON. N°. CXCI.

*This Moment is the Criſis of your Fate.*

Rowe.

I BELIEVE it will be allowed, that, at the firſt Inſtitution of Colonies, the ſole End of the *Britiſh* Nation was to extend her Commerce, and not to eſtabliſh ſo many Plantations of Slaves.—As Trade was the very Eſſence of our public Exiſtence, we propoſed nothing to ourſelves but an Extenſion of our Traffic; ſince in that ſingle Circumſtance every Thing was to be found which could either conduce to the Increaſe of our Power, or the Promotion of our Proſperity.—The Principle upon which we originally ſet out, was no leſs prudent than it was equitable; and ſo long as it continued to influence our Actions, ſo long the great End of Colonization was perfectly anſwered, and ſo long we reaped the Sweets of it, in the Security of our Repoſe and the Enlargement of our Fortunes.

Unhappily, however, inſtead of being thankful to Providence for the Benefits thus accruing from our Colonies, we repined that theſe Benefits were not conſiderably greater; and therefore we ſacrificed the Advantages which we really poſſeſſed, through an inſatiable Avarice for more.—Our Conduct, on this Occaſion, reſembled the well known, but pertinent Story, of the Woman who had a Hen that every Day laid her a Golden Egg.—For ſome Time the good Woman was extremely happy in ſo valuable a Poſſeſſion, and grew ſo rich as to attract the Envy of all her Neighbours: When, O dire Misfortune! being impatient to gain the Summit of her Wiſhes at once, and imagining, if ſhe killed the poor Animal ſhe would find an inexhauſtible Treaſure, ſhe fairly diſpatched it; but had the inſuperable Mortification to find her Avarice puniſhed not only with the total Diſappointment of her Expectations, but with the Loſs of every Advantage which ſhe poſſeſſed before ſhe ſo raſhly proceeded on her fatal Experiment.

The Continent of *America*, before the injudicious Reſtrictions on its Commerce, and the late arbitrary Power which the Mother Country has exerciſed of taxing it at Diſcretion, upon a moderate Calculation, took off [illegible] of *Britiſh* Manufactures, [illegible] to Three Millions Sterling a Year. On this Iſland, prodigious as it muſt be conſidered, was ſo far from having any Appearance of a Decline, that, on the contrary, it was continually on the Increaſe, and would, in all Probability, have very quickly doubled, from the aſtoniſhing Rapidity of the *American* Population.—Yet ſo unhappily blind have we been to the Enjoyment of this invaluable Certainty, that we have ridiculouſly ſacrificed it for the inconſiderable Hope of having a paltry Seventy or Eighty Thouſand Pounds a Year.—The Stamp-Act can ſcarcely bring us in a Six-pence more if it is enforced, and can we look upon this as a ſufficient Equivalent for the numberleſs Advantages which we received from the uninterrupted Poſſeſſion of the *American* Commerce! Can Eighty Thouſand Pounds a Year, together with the Equity of all the Colonies, compenſate for the Loſs of a clear Two Millions Profit at leaſt, a certain Increaſe of that Profit, and the Friendſhip of the whole *American* Continent! The Queſtion is an Inſult upon the Underſtanding of every conſiderate Man; and is the ſevereſt Reflexion that can be poſſibly thrown out againſt the common Senſe of the *Engliſh* Nation.

But ſuppoſe the Stamp-Act cannot be enforced, what ſhall we then ſay to the Propriety of that Meaſure, or what ſhall we ſay to the Effrontery of thoſe who want to cram it ſo violently down the Throat of the Kingdom? To be ſure, the Mother Country may proceed to actual Hoſtilities, and may ſend a powerful Body of Forces over to *America*, to ſpread Ruin and Deſolation wherever an inſtant Submiſſion is not ſhewn to this bleſſed Ordinance.—This, to be ſure, the Mother Country may do.—But the great Queſtion will be then, whether or no ſuch a Plan of Operations can be conducive to her Intereſt? 'Twill appear rather an extraordinary Mode of Proceeding, for the People of *Great-Britain* to expend an immenſe Profuſion both of Treaſure and Blood, to eſtabliſh an *American* Territory, and then, the Moment they have eſtabliſhed this Territory, to ſend over an Armament, at a ſtill farther Expence, to lay it all in Flames, merely becauſe its Inhabitants have refuſed to be trampled into Duſt, and have ſpiritedly laid a Claim to ſome little Intereſt in their own Properties and their own Lives. This is the very Thing which our worthy Neighbours the *French* and *Dutch* have ardently languiſhed for; this is the very Thing for which their Emiſſaries have been ſo inceſſantly induſtrious to poiſon the public Mind; and the People of *Great-Britain*, with the genuine Spirit of Quixotical Heroiſm, like ſo many Dragons Teeth, ſhall fight themſelves to Death, for the general Intereſt and Entertainment of all *Europe*.

Without the Mother Country proceeds to this Extremity, there is but little Proſpect of ever carrying the Stamp-Act into Execution---And if ſhe does proceed to it, the Conſequences muſt be dreadful to the Intereſt of *England*.---In Support of a Law paſſed by an injudicious Miniſter, a Civil War will not only be carried on between the Mother Country and her Colonies, but the Trade of the Plantations will be irrecoverably loſt, and all thoſe Advantages will be for ever annihilated, which have coſt the former ſo incredible a Profuſion both of Treaſure and of Blood.

The preſent Criſis is really an alarming one. 'Tis in Fact, the moſt important that has ever been known in the Annals of the *Britiſh* Empire.---The Queſtion now is, whether, to ſupport a Tax as inconſiderable as it is arbitrary, we ſhall drive three Millions of our moſt induſtrious Subjects into Deſpair, hazard all the Horrors of a Civil War, and eternally ſacrifice the [illegible]ing, the ineſtimable Advantages which [illegible] reaped from a friendly Intercourſe with the Colonies.—Or, by a ſuppoſed Exertion of Law which we purſue [illegible] ſtrenuouſly, we ſhall [illegible] original End of Colonization.—[illegible] *ricans* are now buſy in eſtabliſhing [illegible] of Woollen Manufactures among [illegible] ſelves.—They are entering into [illegible] of the moſt ſpirited Meaſure, [illegible] an Order to the Mother Country for [illegible] Article, [illegible] is [illegible] While we [illegible] While we [illegible] Trade, the [illegible] Manner, [illegible] ſtantly determine, [illegible] termine at all.—[illegible] farther enforced; for the [illegible] neceſſary to obſerve, [illegible] Exiſtence of *Great* [illegible] the principal Exiſtence of that [illegible] depends upon the Poſſeſſion of our [illegible] and every Meaſure muſt ſtab at our [illegible] Dominion, which ſtrikes at our Dominion in *America*.

## ADVERTISEMENT *Extraordinary.*

*Great* GEORGE *and* Patriot PITT *for ever ſing.*

THIS is to Certify all whom it may concern, in *Europe*, *Aſia*, *Africa* and *America*, that all Rejoicings and Exhibitions of Joy throughout this Continent, on Occaſion of the Repeal of the Stamp-Act, [illegible] neral Illuminations, Ringing of Bells, [illegible] fires, Firing of Guns, or other [illegible] will be in Duty and Loyalty to our moſt gracious SOVEREIGN, in Reſpect, Love and Gratitude, to his patriotic MINISTRY, and in Honour of the immortal PITT, and of the ILLUSTRIOUS FIVE; and all thoſe and thoſe ONLY, who are and were for Repealing that *deteſtable* Act as unconſtitutional: And in the higheſt *Triumph* over, and Contempt of, an *Infernal*, *Atheiſtical*, *Popiſh* and *Jeſuitic* Crew, on BOTH Sides the Atlantic; who by the kind Providence of ALMIGHTY GOD, are *totally*, and 'tis to be hoped EVERLASTINGLY, fruſtrated in their DIABOLICAL Purpoſes towards *Great-Britain* and her Colonies.

## WILLIAMSBURG, *May* 26.

On Saturday Night last, the Honourable JOHN ROBINSON, Esq; in the 63d Year of his Age, Speaker to the Honourable House of Burgesses, and Treasurer of this Colony, paid the last Debt to Nature, after labouring some Days with the most excruciating Torments of the Stone, which he bore with that Christian Fortitude and Resignation to the Divine Will, which had ever dignified his Actions. To say only that he was a good Man, would not be doing Justice to his Excellence; for he was an affectionate Husband, a tender Father, and an universal Friend to Mankind. In a Word, his Soul was animated with every social Virtue, which, from every honest Heart, must draw a Tear of Sympathy to the Memory of such a worthy Member of Society.

### On the Death of the Hon. JOHN ROBINSON, Esq;

*How shall my untaught Pen, in plaintive Verse,*
*The Anguish of my troubled Soul rehearse:*
*Descend some Muse, and dissipate my Grief,*
*And let my trembling Heart find some Relief.*
*Alas! in vain I sue, in vain implore,*
*Since Virtue's darling Friend is now no more:*
*His Soul is fled to the bright Realms of Light,*
*And soars on Seraph's Wings beyond our Sight,*
*While we, who languish in this Vale below,*
*Must be Partakers of* SUSANNA'S *Woe;*
*Must drop with her the sympathetic Tear*
*Of Grief for him whose Virtues we revere:*
*In Him, the Husband, Father, Friend, were join'd,*
*Each social Virtue in his Soul combin'd,*
*To make him greatest of the human Kind.*
*But stop, my Muse, ah! whither would'st thou rove,*
*His Merit you in Silence should approve,*
*And leave it to some abler Poet's Pen,*
*To praise the Virtues of the best of Men.*

## LONDON, *February* 10, 1766.

THE Act for restraining *North American* Paper Currency, it is confidently said, will be repealed this Sessions.

We are told an Act of Bankruptcy is on the Carpet, calculated for the Use of the *American* Colonies.

*Feb.* 25. We are informed that Orders were sent by *Saturday*'s Post (on hearing the Affair of the Stamp-Act) to *Sheffield*, *Birmingham*, *Leeds*, and other manufacturing Towns, for Goods to the Amount of £. 40,000, for the *American* Trade.

It is said the Subject of establishing a Mint for Coining of Silver Money at *New-York*, for the better Regulation of *American* Currency, will soon be brought under Consideration.

On Saturday several Parties of poor Fellows, with Weavers Aprons, went about the Courts and other private Places of this City, begging, with a Petition in their Hands, setting forth, that above Twenty Thousand of their Brethren were now out of Employ. If this is really a Fact, and they were Weavers, it is a Pity their Case is not properly made public, that some necessary Relief may be found, before they are drove to Despair; for in this Manner they rather raise Terror, than excite Charity.

*March* 6. Yesterday a Body of Two Hundred Members of the House of Commons carried up the Bill to the House of Peers, for *repealing the American* STAMP-ACT. An Instance of such a Number going up with a single Bill, has not been known in the Memory of Man.

## BOSTON, *April* 21.

The Merchants in *London* are so certain of a Repeal of the Stamp-Act, that they have sent large Quantities of Goods to their Correspondents here, tho' contrary to the Counter Orders they received with Respect to the same.

## PHILADELPHIA, *May* 1.

On Tuesday Evening the Gentlemen of the LAW, and other public OFFICERS, met here, and unanimously determined immediately to proceed to Business; and the OFFICES are now all open.

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LOUDOUN, *April* 5, 1766.

THE Subscriber requests it as a Favour of all his Acquaintances, That they will never take any LETTER directed to him out of the POST-OFFICE, as he is determined never willingly to pay a Farthing of any TAX laid upon this COUNTRY, in an UNCONSTITUTIONAL MANNER.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE.

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LATELY PUBLISHED,

*And to be SOLD by* WILLIAM RIND, *at the* NEW PRINTING-OFFICE, *near the* CAPITOL, *in* WILLIAMSBURG,

# CONSIDERATIONS ON THE PROPRIETY OF IMPOSING TAXES IN THE BRITISH COLONIES,

For the Purpose of raising a REVENUE, by ACT of PARLIAMENT.

*This Pamphlet is universally allowed, by the very best Judges, to be the most masterly Performance, in Vindication of the Rights of the Colonies, and stating the Nature of that Jurisdiction which* Great-Britain *has over them, according to it's Constitution, the Rules of Justice and Prudence, and the Relation subsisting between them, that has appeared among all the numerous judicious Productions of the most able Writers that have exerted themselves upon this alarming Occasion. And as this Author has shewn himself to be perfectly acquainted with the Laws and Constitution of* England, *as well as the Rights of the Colonies, and has, in the clearest Manner stated the Facts, and deduced his Conclusions from the most solid and unexceptionable Principles; it is not doubted but it will do great Service both in* America *and* England, *by clearing the most weighty Subject that ever the Nation had under Consideration, of the Difficulties with which it was attended, and shewing both the People of* England *and* America, *the Limits of their Rights.*

☞ The Author of the above Pamphlet is a Native of *Maryland*, was educated in *England*, and bred at the *Temple*; and is at present *one of the most celebrated* CIVILIANS *on this Continent.*

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*May* 12, 1766.

STRAYED or Stolen from the Subscriber in *Williamsburg*, on the 24th of *December* last, a small dark bay Horse, branded either C or R. He formerly belonged to Major *James Power*, of *James-City* County. Whoever delivers the said Horse to the Subscriber, shall receive TEN SHILLINGS Reward.

DANIEL BAXTER.

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*To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of* Great-Britain, *in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Colonies of the *Massachusetts Bay*, *Rhode-Island*, and *Providence* Plantations, *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, the Government of the Counties of *New-Castle Kent* and *Sussex* upon *Delaware*, *Maryland*, &c.

*Most humbly sheweth,*

THAT the several late Acts of Parliament, imposing divers Duties and Taxes on the Colonies, and laying the Trade and Commerce thereof, under very burthensome Restrictions, but above all, the Act for granting and applying certain Stamp Duties, &c. in *America*, have filled them with the deepest Concern and Surprize, and they humbly conceive the Execution of those Acts will be attended with Consequences very Injurious to the commercial Interest of *Great-Britain* and her Colonies, and must terminate in the eventual Ruin of the latter. Your Petitioners therefore most ardently implore the Attention of the Honourable House, to the united and dutiful Representation of the Circumstances, and to their earnest Supplications for Relief from those Restrictions which have already involved this Continent in Anxiety, Confusion and Distress.

We most sincerely recognize our Allegiance to the Crown, and acknowledge all due Subordination to the Parliament of *Great-Britain*, and shall always retain the most grateful Sense of their Assistance and Protection.—It is from, and under, the *English* Constitution, we derive all our civil and religious Rights and Liberties; we glory in being Subjects of the best of Kings, and in having been born under the most perfect Form of Government: But it is with most ineffable and humiliating Sorrow, that we find ourselves of late deprived of the Right of granting our own Property for his Majesty's Service, to which our Lives and Fortunes are entirely devoted, and to which, on his Royal Requisitions we have ever been ready to contribute, to the utmost of our Abilities. We have also the Misfortune to find, that all the Penalties and Forfeitures mentioned in the Stamp-Act, and in divers late Acts of Trade, extending to the Plantations, are at the Election of the Informer, recoverable in any Court of Admiralty in *America*. This, as the newly erected Court of Admiralty has a general Jurisdiction over all *British America*, renders his Majesty's Subjects, in these Colonies, liable to be carried at an immense Expence, from one End of the Continent to the other. It gives us also great Pain, to see a manifest Distinction made therein, between the Subjects of our Mother Country, and those in the Colonies, in that the like Penalties and Forfeitures recoverable there, only in his Majesty's Courts of Record, are made cognizable here, by a Court of Admiralty, by this Means, we seem to be in effect, unhappily deprived of two Privileges essential to Freedom, and which all *Englishmen* have ever considered as their best Birthrights, that of being free from all Taxes, but such as they have consented to in Person, or by their Representatives, and of Trial by their Peers.

Your Petitioners further shew, that the remote Situation, and other local Circumstances of the Colonies, render it impracticable that they should be represented, but in their respective subordinate Legislatures, and they humbly conceive that the Parliament, adhering strictly to the Principles of the Constitution, have never hitherto taxed any, but those who were actually therein represented. For this Reason, we humbly apprehend, they never have taxed *Ireland*, or any other

of

of the Subject without the Realm: But were it ever ſo clear that the Colonies might in Law be reaſonably deemed to be repreſented in the Hon. Houſe of Commons; yet we conceive, that very good Reaſons from Inconvenience, from the Principles of true Policy, and from the Spirit of the *Britiſh* Conſtitution, may be adduced to ſhow, that it would be for the real Intereſt of *Great-Britain*, as well as her Colonies, that the late Regulations ſhould be reſcinded, and the ſeveral Acts of Parliament impoſing Duties and Taxes on the Colonies, and extending the Juriſdiction of the Courts of Admiralty here, beyond their ancient Limits, ſhould be repealed.

We ſhall not attempt a minute Detail of all the Reaſons which the Wiſdom of the Hon. Houſe may ſuggeſt on this Occaſion, but would humbly ſubmit the following Particulars to their Conſideration.

That Money is already become very ſcarce in theſe Colonies, and is ſtill decreaſing by the neceſſary Exportation of Specie, from the Continent, for the Diſcharge of our Debts to the *Britiſh* Merchants.

That an immenſely heavy Debt is yet due from the Colonies for *Britiſh* Manufactures, and that they are ſtill heavily burthened with Taxes, to diſcharge the Arrearages due for Aids granted by them in the late War. That the Ballance of Trade will ever be much againſt the Colonies, and in Favour of *Great-Britain*, whilſt we conſume her Manufactures, the Demand for which, muſt ever increaſe, in Proportion to the Number of Inhabitants ſettled here, with the Means of purchaſing them. We therefore humbly conceive it to be the Intereſt of *Great-Britain* to increaſe rather than to diminiſh thoſe Means, as the Profits of all the Trade of the Colonies ultimately center there, to pay for her Manufactures, as we are not allowed to purchaſe elſewhere; and by the Conſumption of which, at the advanced Prices the *Britiſh* Taxes oblige the Makers and Venders to ſet on them, we eventually contribute very largely to the Revenue of the Crown.

That from the Nature of the *American* Buſineſs, the Multiplicity of Suits and Papers uſed in Matters of ſmall Value, in a Country where Freeholds are ſo minutely divided, and Property ſo frequently transferred, a Stamp Duty muſt ever be very burthenſome and unequal.---That it is extremely improbable that the Hon. Houſe of Commons ſhould at all Times be thoroughly acquainted with our Condition, and all Facts requiſite to a juſt and equal Taxation of the Colonies.

It is alſo humbly ſubmitted, whether there be not a material Diſtinction, in Reaſon and ſound Policy, at leaſt, between the neceſſary Exerciſe of parliamentary Juriſdiction in general Acts for the Amendment of the common Law, and the Regulation of Trade and Commerce through the whole Empire, and the Exerciſe of that Juriſdiction by impoſing Taxes on the Colonies.

That the ſeveral ſubordinate provincial Legiſlatures have been moulded into Forms, as nearly reſembling that of the Mother Country, as by his Majeſty's royal Predeceſſors was thought convenient; and theſe Legiſlatures ſeem to have been wiſely and graciouſly eſtabliſhed that the Subjects in the Colonies might under the due Adminiſtration thereof enjoy the happy Fruits of the *Britiſh* Government, which in their preſent Circumſtances they cannot be ſo fully and clearly availed of any other Way.

Under theſe Forms of Government, we and our Anceſtors have been born or ſettled, and have had our Lives, Liberties and Properties protected. The People here as everywhere elſe retain a great Fondneſs for their old Cuſtoms and Uſages, and we truſt that his Majeſty's Service, and the Intereſt of the Nation, ſo far from being obſtructed, have been vaſtly promoted by the Provincial Legiſlatures.

That we eſteem our Connection with, and Dependance on *Great-Britain*, as one of our greateſt Bleſſings, and apprehend the latter will appear to be ſufficiently ſecure, when it is conſidered, that the Inhabitants in the Colonies have the moſt unbounded Affection for his Majeſty's Perſon, Family and Government, as well as for the Mother Country, and that their general Subordination to the Parliament is univerſally acknowledged.

We therefore moſt humbly intreat, that the Hon. Houſe would be pleaſed to hear our Council, in ſupport of this Petition, and take our diſtreſſed and deplorable Caſe into their ſerious Conſideration; and that the Acts, and Clauſes of Acts ſo grievouſly reſtraining our Trade and Commerce, impoſing Duties and Taxes on our Property, and extending the Juriſdiction of the Court of Admiralty beyond its ancients Limits, may be repealed, or that the Hon. Houſe would otherwiſe relieve your Petitioners as in your great Wiſdom and Goodneſs ſhall ſeem meet.

*And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, ſhall ever pray*, &c.

*Signed*,

*James Otis*, *Oliver Partridge* } Commiſſioners from the Houſe of Repreſentatives of his Majeſty's Province of *Maſſachuſetts-Bay*.

*Henry Ward*, *Metcalfe Bowler* } Commiſſioners from the Colony of *Rhode-Iſland*.

*Hendrick Fiſher*, *Joſeph Borden* } Commiſſioners from *New Jerſey*.

*John Morton*, *George Bryan* } Commiſſioners from *Pennſylvania*.

*Cæſar Rodney*, *Thomas M'Kean* } Commiſſioners from the Lower Counties on *Delaware*.

*Edward Tilghman*, *William Murdock*, *Thomas Ringgold* } Commiſſioners from *Maryland*.

## BOSTON, *April* 21.

*Extract of a Letter from London, Feb.* 17.

THE preſent Miniſtry, it may be depended on, are the real Friends of *America*, or rather of the whole Nation, as Intereſts cannot be ſeparated.--Neither the Petitions of the Congreſs, nor of thoſe Governments who petitioned ſeparately, have been received, as they contain an Aſſertion of Rights which the Parliament have reſolved that they have not. The great and good Mr. *Pitt*, and *Barre*, and others in the Houſe of Commons, were againſt theſe Reſolves, as were Mr. *Pratt*, Lord *Shelburne*, *Torrington*, *Cornwallis*, &c. in the Houſe of Lords. The former ſupported your Petitions in the Houſe of Commons; however, they have had their full Effect, as by them the Senſe and Spirit of the Colonies have been diſcovered; and the many who had large Debts in *America*, ſeeing that their own Ruin would be the Conſequence of enforcing the Act, immediately became your warmeſt Advocates. The Agreement of your Merchants not to ſend for any Goods from hence, until a Repeal, was a Clincher.—One Manufacturer who attended the Parliament declared, unleſs that Act was ſoon repealed, he ſhould diſmiſs 1100 Workmen; and it was hinted, that 100,000 Manufacturers would ſoon be in *London*.—The Wiſdom, as well as the Uprightneſs of Mr. *Pitt*'s Intentions, in founding the Repeal of the Stamp-Act upon the Footing of its being illegal, and inſupportable by the Colonies, rather than upon its being for the Intereſt of our own Merchants and Manufacturers, tho' really the Caſe, is highly applauded by the Diſcerning, as it would have reflected Honour on the P--li----t, and convinced the Colonies of our Juſtice and Tenderneſs for them, and thereby gained their Confidence and Affection, which, in the preſent Way, may be loſt for ever; and Frugality and Induſtry ſtill continue to be the popular Topic among you. To ſecure a Repeal of the Act, is the Reaſon given for the Miniſtry's falling in with the Party for theſe previous Reſolves; they have really had a difficult Talk of it; and their Hands weakened by Letters and Accounts from the Greenvillian Tools on your Side of the Water, very injurous to the Colonies. It is thought you will not well reliſh the Reſolve, "That thoſe Perſons "who have been active in endeavouring to "ſupport the Act impoſing Stamp Duties on "the Colonies, be taken into the Royal Fa"vour and Protection," unleſs it is, that thereby thoſe your Friends will be clearly pointed out to you. Upon the whole, you are much obliged to your Friends here, and have little to fear from your Enemies: Thoſe among yourſelves will expoſe you to the greateſt Dangers and Inconveniencies; but all the true Friends of *America* here are upon the Watch Tower, and will endeavour to counteract every evil Deſign.

## Williamsburg, *May* 16.

This Day arrived in *James* River, Capt. *Andrew*, in 5 Weeks from *Glaſgow*, who brings us a certain Account, that the Bill for the Repeal of the Stamp-Act had obtain'd the King's Aſſent on the 18th of *March* laſt: We therefore ſincerely congratulate our Readers on this happy Deliverance from the Torrent of Oppreſſion that threatened to overwhelm us.

His Honour the Governor has been pleaſed further to prorogue the General Aſſembly of this Colony to the laſt Thurſday in *July* next.

Capt. *Woodall* is arrived in *James* River, from *Whitehaven*, after a long Paſſage. And Capt. *Drew*, in *York* River, in 8 Weeks, from *Briſtol*.

THE Publiſher of this GAZETTE, will eſteem it as a Favour, if thoſe Gentlemen who have obliged him by taking in Subſcriptions, will return him a Liſt of them by the firſt Opportunity, that he may aſcertain the Number of his Subſcribers.

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